

The Bristlecone

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The official newspaper of Great Basin National Park
Summer 2015 - Spring 2016



Welcome to Great Basin National Park!

Great Basin National Park preserves a small representative piece of this region where you can experience the fascinating resources of this vast area. The park provides an abundance of natural features and history for all to enjoy. From the depths of Lehman Caves to the 13,063 foot height of Wheeler Peak with 5,000 year old bristlecone pines, streams, lakes, and majestic mountain ranges, to the abundant wildlife. Great Basin National Park is a great place to **FIND YOUR PARK!**

Your national parks preserve the best America has to offer. They serve as shining examples to the world of America's foresight and generosity to protect our shared natural and historical heritage for present and future generations to enjoy responsibly. In an increasingly complex and hurried world, your national parks, and

Great Basin in particular, provide undemanding space and time to explore the natural world on its terms and at its pace. In the process you may discover something about yourself.

Camping, hiking, birding, photography, wildlife observation, exploring – the list of ways to enjoy Great Basin National Park is unlimited. The park has been described as “in the middle of nowhere” and “not an easy place to get to.” After some time here, I hope you will agree with me that “the middle of nowhere” is a wonderful place to be.

Steven Mietz

Superintendent, Great Basin National Park

Visiting Lehman Caves

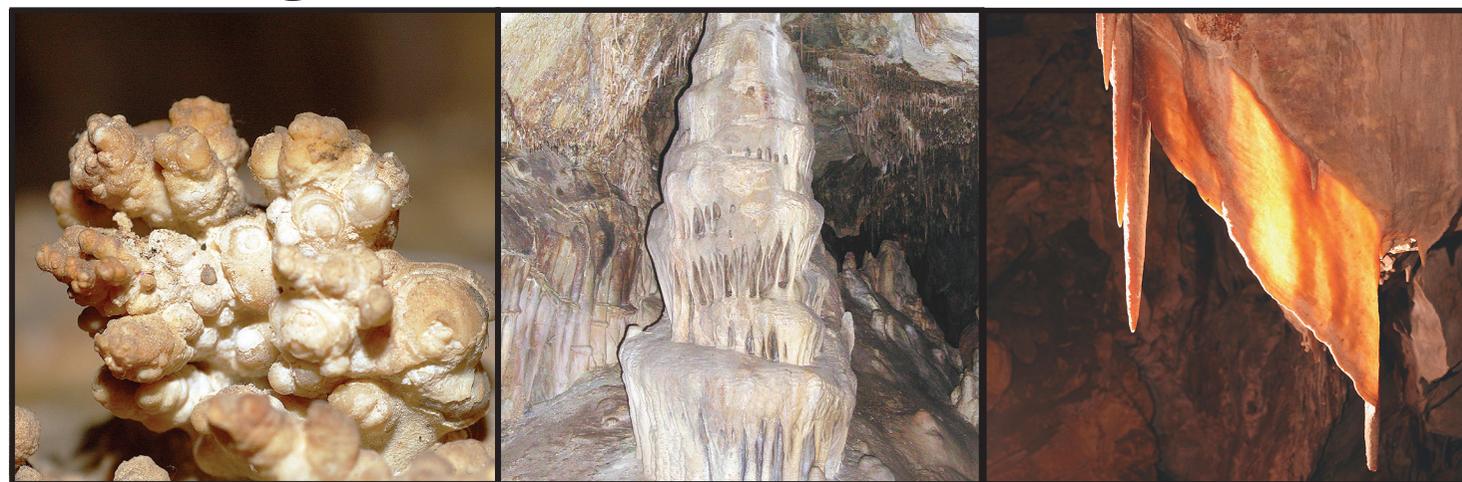
Tour Prices

Grand Palace Tour

Adults (16+)	\$10.00
Youth (5-15)	\$5.00
Infants/Tots (0-4)	N/A
Senior Pass	\$5.00
Access Pass	50% Off

Lodge Room Tour

Adults (16+)	\$8.00
Youth (5-15)	\$4.00
Infants/Tots (0-4)	FREE
Senior Pass	\$4.00
Access Pass	50% Off



Cave popcorn (left), stalagmites (center) and translucent cave bacon (right) are just a few of the formations found in Lehman Caves. Explore this underground world on a guided walk with a Great Basin National Park ranger. NPS photos.

Tour Information

Lehman Caves can only be entered with a guided tour. All tours are guided by a park ranger who will discuss the history, biology and geology of the cave. **To minimize the spread of White-Nose Syndrome, a screening process is now in effect: see page 3.**

The Grand Palace Tour visits all areas of the cave that are open to the public, takes approximately 90 minutes, is 0.54 miles long, and is open to visitors ages 5 and older.

The Lodge Room Tour visits several rooms in the cave, takes approximately 60 minutes, is 0.4 miles long, and is open to all visitors.

A Gothic Palace Tour is an option for visitors who are unable to negotiate the stairs and narrow passageways. The entrance tunnel is 250 feet long with a 5-8% grade; wheelchairs are permitted only if members of your party can control and push the chair both into and out of the cave. Speak with a ranger for details.

Limited photography is permitted. Please follow your ranger's guidance on when and where to take photos and be aware that flashes can impair vision and disorient other visitors.

A Fragile Environment

The Lehman Caves ecosystem is easily affected by our presence and actions. You may bring a jacket, a hand-held camera, and a flashlight into the cave. All other items, including food, water or other beverages, purses, backpacks, camera cases, and tripods are not allowed. Touching or collecting of cave formations is strictly prohibited. Thank you for helping us protect the cave!

Ticket Sales

Lehman Caves tours are limited to 20 people per tour and do sell out. Tickets may be purchased up to one month in advance in person at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center or by phone at (775) 234-7517. Same day tickets may only be purchased in person (not by phone).

All tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase. Major credit and debit cards are accepted for phone orders. Phone orders are taken between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All advance sales are final; please plan carefully.

Advance tickets must be picked up at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center at least 15 minutes prior to tour time. Unclaimed tickets will go on sale to walk-in customers and will not be refunded.

Senior Passes and Access Passes provide a discount *for the card holder only*. Senior and Access Passes must be presented to be eligible for a discount.

For Your Comfort and Safety

- The elevation of the cave entrance is 6,825' (2080 m).
- There are 76 steps as well as slopes along the cave tour route.
- Low ceilings may require frequent stooping.
- Trails may be slippery. Wear shoes with good traction.
- Watch your step and use handrails where provided.
- Stay with your tour and stay on the trail.
- The cave is a constant 50° F (10° C) and 90% humidity.
- A light jacket is recommended.

Tour Schedule

Summer

May 22 - September 7, 2015

Grand Palace Tour
9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

Lodge Room Tour
8:30, 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:00

Fall & Spring

September - October 2015
March - May 2016

Grand Palace Tour
9:00 and 1:00

Lodge Room Tour
11:00 and 3:00

Winter

November 2015 - February 2016
The schedule for cave tours has yet to be determined. Please visit our website (www.nps.gov/grba) or call (775) 234-7331 for the most up-to-date information.

All times are Pacific Time

Are You Spreading White-Nose Syndrome?

If a ranger asks you “When was the last time you visited a cave?”, it may seem like an odd question, but it’s actually quite important. It’s a question designed to make you think about where your clothes and shoes have been; a question sparked by millions of dead bats in Eastern and Midwestern US and Canada, and a question which could save the lives of millions of bats.

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a bat-killing fungus that looks like powdered sugar around the muzzle and ears of wintering bats. Since the emergence of this disease in 2006, WNS has decimated bat colonies across a wide swath of the Eastern and Midwestern US and Canada, reducing some populations by over 90%. Some individual colonies have perished entirely. WNS crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Europe, possibly hitching a ride on the clothes and shoes of tourists. While European bats seem to have developed an evolutionary resistance to the fungus, North American species have no such advantage. It kills indirectly, interrupting winter hibernation and forcing bats to burn excess calories at a time of year when there is no way to replace them. Eventually, they starve to death.

Bats are an important part of nearly every ecosystem on earth. Found in all regions except the harshest polar climates, bats make up about 20% of the world’s mammal population. Fruit-eating bats spread seeds and are largely responsible for reforestation of burned areas. Nectar-eating bats pollinate many plants, including banana trees. Cave-roosting bats are considered a keystone species because they provide guano that is a building block of the cave food web. Bats also save the US agricultural industry over three billion dollars a year in pest control services.

It is easy for you to play a part in helping to control the spread of this disease. Heed posted cave closures. If you have any doubt of whether your clothes may be contaminated, change or launder them before entering any cave. If you have worn your shoes in any cave, underground mine, or



U.S. Geological Survey/photo by A. Hicks.

suspected bat sanctuary, please switch footwear before the tour or allow our staff to disinfect your shoes. Other items to consider disinfecting include cameras, headlamps, and flashlights. If this means you need to show up 20 minutes early, please take the time. Bats need our help now.

As new information about WNS comes to light, Great Basin National Park will be implementing new decontamination and monitoring procedures. Please work with us to protect our bats and their habitat.

You can find out more on the park website www.nps.gov/grba, the U.S. Geologic Service National Wildlife Health Center website www.nwhc.usgs.gov or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org.

Western National Parks Association

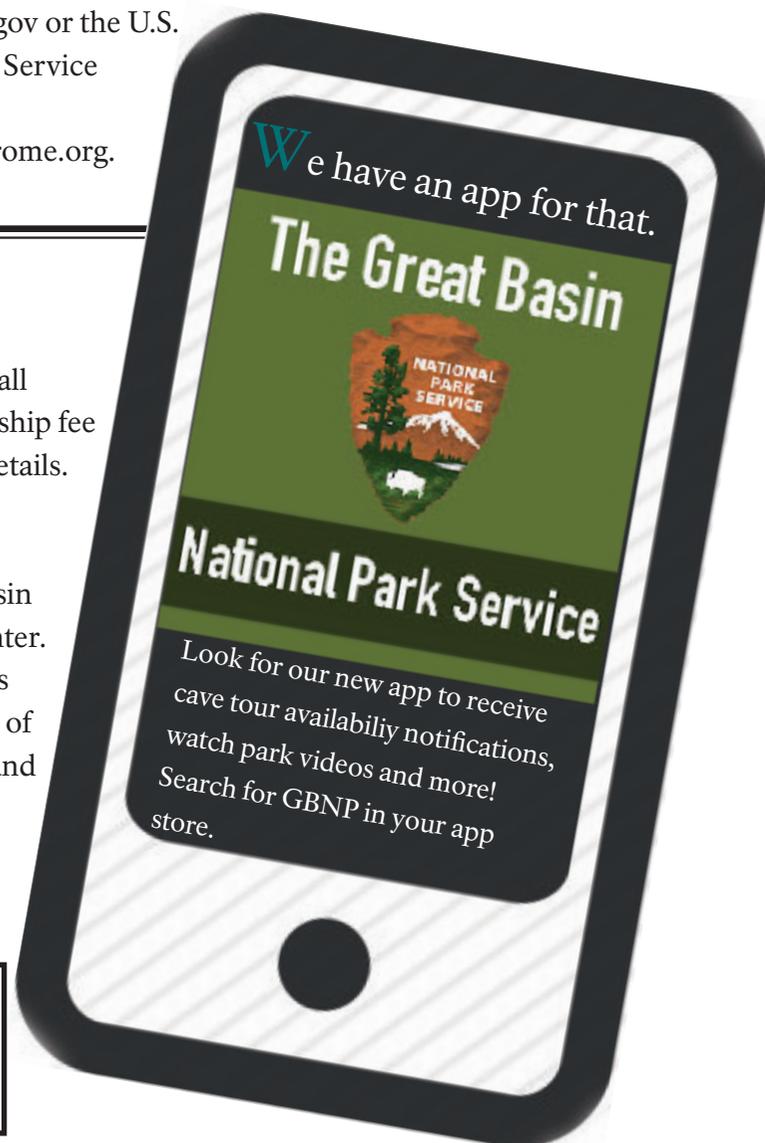
Established in 1938, Western National Parks Association operates bookstores at sixty-seven National Park Service sites throughout the western United States. WNPA’s mission is to promote the preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation, and research. WNPA has contributed more than \$40 million to the National Park Service, generated through store sales and member support. WNPA supports parks by producing more than a half million free interpretive items every year.

The association has more than 200 publications in print, including *Great Basin National Park*, which was published in 2007. A catalog of WNPA publications and other educational products on subjects from Archeology to Zoology is available in the Great Basin National Park visitor center bookstores. WNPA

members receive a 15% discount on all bookstore items; the annual membership fee is \$45.00. Ask at a visitor center for details.

Western National Parks Association operates two bookstores in Great Basin National Park, one at each visitor center. Both stores offer a wide range of titles on the natural and cultural resources of the region, hiking maps, logo items, and a variety of items revealing the Great Basin. You can also visit our online store at www.wnpa.org.

WESTERN
NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION

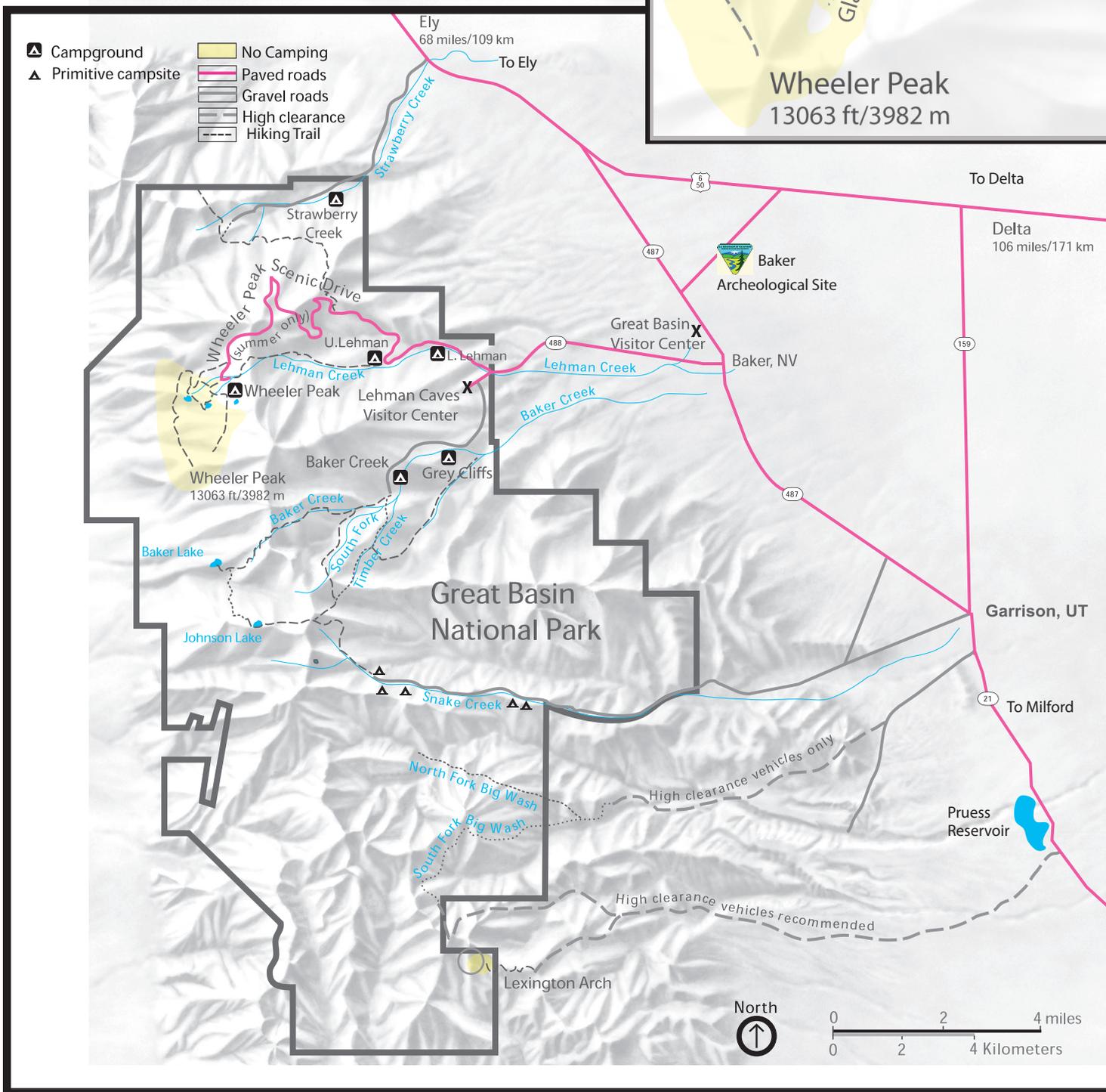
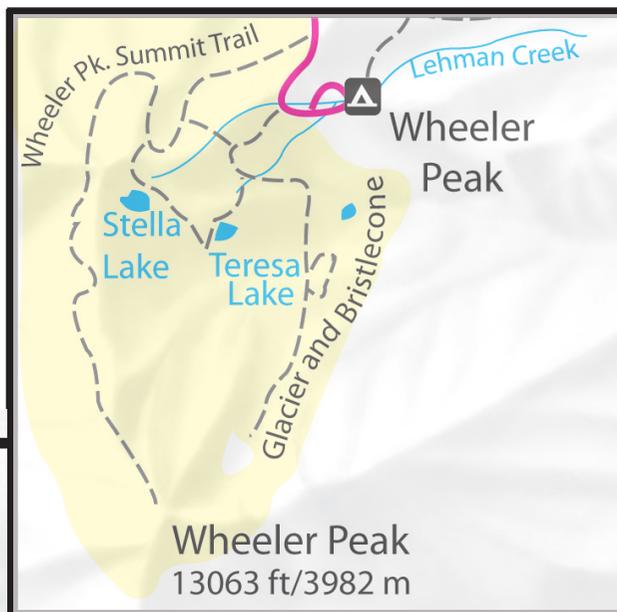


Hiking Information

	Round-trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Mountain View Nature Trail	0.3 miles (0.4 km)	80 feet (25 m)	6,825 feet (2,080 m)	This is a leisurely walk in the pinyon-juniper forest. The trail guide (available for loan at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center) describes the geology and ecology of the area. The trail starts at the Rhodes Cabin next to the visitor center.
Lehman Creek Trail	6.8 miles (11 km)	2,050 feet (620 m)	7,750 feet (2,360 m)	This trail can be accessed from trailheads in both the Wheeler Peak and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds. It passes through diverse habitats, paralleling a creek for parts of the trail.
Osceola Ditch Trail	9.6 miles (16.0 km)	445 feet (drop) (136 m)	8,565 feet (2,635 m)	Begin at the signed pullout on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Walk downslope through ponderosa pine, white fir and Douglas fir trees to the remnants of an 18 mile long channel built by gold miners in the 1880's. The trail follows the ditch towards Strawberry Creek.
Wheeler Peak Trail	8.2 miles (13 km)	2,900 feet (890 m)	10,160 feet (3,100 m)	This hike should be started very early in the day because of the risk of afternoon thunderstorms. Along most of the route, the trail follows the ridge up to the Wheeler Peak summit. It is easiest to begin the hike from the Summit Trailhead parking area. Day use only.
Alpine Lakes Loop Trail	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The trail passes two beautiful sub-alpine lakes, Stella and Teresa Lakes. There are good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Trail parking area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground. Day use only.
Bristlecone Trail	2.8 miles (4.6km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	Interpretive signs in the bristlecone pine grove explain the lives and significance of these ancient trees. The Glacier Trail continues beyond the bristlecone pine grove to a rock glacier, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak. Day use only.
Glacier and Bristlecone Trail	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (340 m)		
Pole Canyon Trail	4 miles (6.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	7,000 feet (2,150 m)	This hike starts east of the Grey Cliffs Campground area and crosses a small bridge. Once a road, this trail passes through different forest communities, along the creekbed, and into several small meadows. If you are looking for a longer, more strenuous hike, continue on the Timber Creek Trail.
Baker Lake Trail	12.0 miles (19.4 km)	2,620 feet (800 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The trail begins at the end of the Baker Creek Road. It offers nice views of the surrounding peaks and ends at Baker Lake, an alpine lake with beautiful cliffs behind it. Just over a mile up the trail is the cut-off for the loop trail. Pass through ponderosa pines and a beautiful meadow, then return via the South Fork Baker Creek Trail.
Baker Creek Loop	3.1 miles (5 km)	870 feet (270 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	
South Fork Baker Creek/ Johnson Lake	11.2 miles (18.2 km)	2,740 feet (840 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	This trail begins from the Baker Creek Road and follows the South Fork of Baker Creek. It then joins with the Johnson Lake Trail, passing historic Johnson Lake Mine structures just before reaching the lake.
Johnson Lake Trail (from Snake Creek)	7.4 miles (11.8 km)	2,420 feet (740m)	8,320 feet (2,540 m)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Warning: Do not enter any mine structures: STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE!</div> Johnson Lake can also be reached by starting at the end of Snake Creek Road. This shorter, steeper route offers nice views of the Snake Creek drainage before reaching the historic Johnson Mill and Johnson Lake. Please preserve the past by leaving historic objects and buildings undisturbed!
Baker Lake/ Johnson Lake Loop	13.1 miles (21.1 km)	3,290 feet (1,010 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The Baker Lake and Johnson Lake Trails can be combined into a loop hike. This makes a good overnight trip. The connecting section is a steep route over the ridge between Baker and Johnson Lakes. The ridge top offers spectacular views in all directions. Caution: this trail is very steep and prone to avalanches in winter. Route finding can be difficult.
Lexington Arch Trail	3.4 miles (5.5 km)	820 feet (250 m)	7,440 feet (2,270 m)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px;">Due to the fire that occurred within the Lexington drainage the BLM and NPS have established temporary road and trail closures for visitor safety and resource concerns. After safety considerations are met, and road and trail maintenance occur, the roads and trails will be reopened. Please ask at visitor centers for the most recent information.</div>

Park Map

The maps shown here are meant as orientation maps and should not be used in place of trail maps. If you are planning on hiking, especially in the more remote areas, please purchase a topographic map at a park visitor center. Many trails in the park are primitive, making route finding difficult. It is a good idea to carry a compass and have basic orienteering skills before heading into the backcountry. The bookstores sell 7.5 minute topographic maps and trail maps, as well as books detailing the trails and routes in Great Basin National Park.



Recreation Hazards

Altitude Sickness is a condition brought on by high elevations often in conjunction with strenuous activity. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, nausea, incoherent speech, and headache. The cure is to descend immediately. Altitude sickness can be life threatening. To avoid altitude sickness, ascend slowly, eat lightly and frequently, and drink plenty of water.

Hypothermia is a serious condition in which a person's body temperature is lowered. It can occur at temperatures well above freezing. Avoid hypothermia by wearing appropriate, layered clothing. Do not wear cotton clothing as it is very cold when wet. Carry extra clothes, drink plenty of fluids, eat high energy foods, and stay dry. Signs of hypothermia include slurred speech and uncontrollable shivering. If someone shows signs of hypothermia, warm the individual slowly, replace wet clothes with dry ones and give the person warm liquids without caffeine.

Drinking Water is essential; it is easy to become dehydrated when hiking in the dry desert air. Carry plenty of water and drink it! All surface water should be chemically treated, boiled, or passed through a filter capable of eliminating harmful microbes and parasites such as giardia.

Abandoned Mines are common in the park and the surrounding region. They can be extremely dangerous. Shafts and tunnels are unstable; do not enter them. Great Basin National Park is currently working to make abandoned mine lands safer.

Driving conditions in the park can be hazardous. Please obey the posted speed limits. Use lower gears on long downhill sections to prevent overheated brakes. Use of seat belts is required in both Nevada and the park. Please stop only at pullouts. Watch for wildlife and pedestrians. Congestion in the visitor center parking areas can lead to accidents. Please use caution.

Cell phones do not always work in the park. Do not rely on them!

Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive is paved, but steep and winding. Vehicles and trailers over 24 feet in length are not permitted beyond Upper Lehman Creek Campground. The scenic drive is open three miles to Upper Lehman Campground year-round. The upper nine miles of the road are generally open June through October, weather dependent.

Please obey posted speed limits: speeding is the most common cause of accidents on these roads!

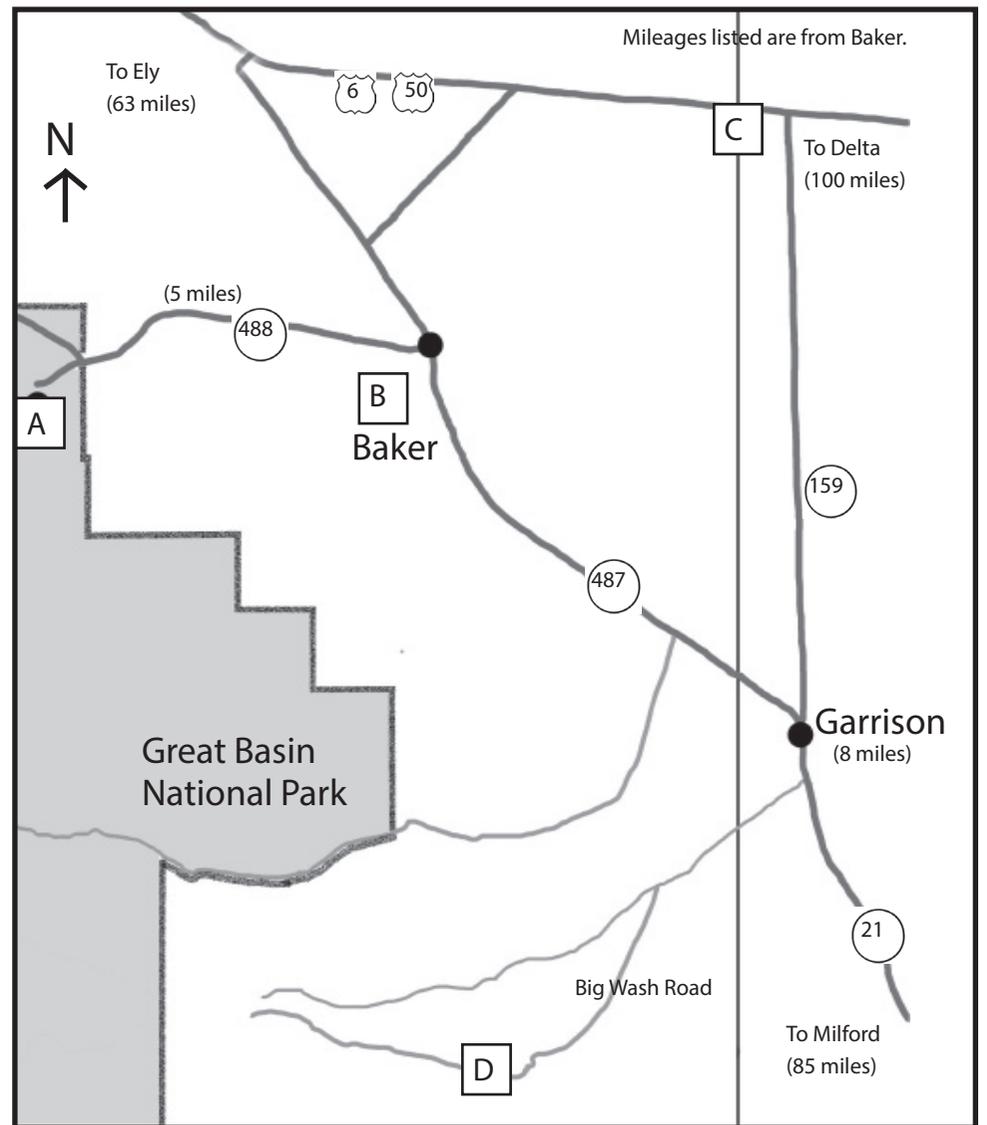
Baker Creek Road is a graded gravel road and is generally open May through November, weather dependent.

Remote Park Roads (Strawberry) are open year-round, but can be muddy or snowy in the winter and spring. High clearance vehicles are recommended for these rough, dirt roads. Snake Creek Road is closed for the Spring and Summer of 2015 for campsite and trail work.

Area Services

-  Convenience Store
-  Fuel
-  Gift shop
-  Laundry facilities
-  Lodging
-  Public showers
-  Restaurant
-  RV facilities

- A** Lehman Caves Visitor Center & WNPCA Bookstore
(775) 234-7331
Lehman Caves Gift and Café
(775) 234-7221  
- B** Great Basin Visitor Center & WNPCA Bookstore
(775) 234-7331
Baker Sinclair Gas Station    
Ferg's Firewood
Rock Sage Room
(775) 234-7127 
Getaway Cabin
(775) 234-7272 
Silver Jack Inn & Art Gallery
Lectrolux Cafe, Bar & Deli
(775) 234-7323  
T&D's Store, Restaurant & Lounge
(775) 234-7264  
Whispering Elms Campground
(775) 234-9900    
- C** Border Inn (open 24 Hours)
(775) 234-7300       
- D** Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch
(775) 234-7172 



The Great Basin National Heritage Area

Great Basin National Park lies within a national heritage area. Like national parks, national heritage areas are designated by Congress; they are different from national parks in that heritage areas generally own no property and utilize public-private partnerships to preserve, promote, and interpret heritage resources. There are nearly 50 national heritage areas in the United States. Learn more at greatbasinheritage.org.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area was designated in 2006 for its significant natural and cultural resources and its classic western landscape: long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archeological sites and tribal communities. The Great Basin National Heritage Area is a geographical region that encompasses White Pine County, Nevada; Millard County, Utah; and nearby tribal lands.

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is the coordinating entity, and our mission is to promote preservation, education, and enjoyment of the region's unique heritage. The Partnership has been able to grant funds for projects throughout the heritage area, many of which have created or expanded unique visitor experiences. We encourage you to take an extra day or two to explore the heritage area! Following is just a sampling of opportunities for visitors in the Great Basin National Heritage Area:

Fillmore, Utah: Visit the Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum to explore Utah's early history in its oldest government building. The Old Capitol Arts & Living History Festival is held here every September the weekend after Labor Day, www.oldcapitolartsandlivinghistoryfestival.org.

Delta, Utah: The Great Basin Museum displays objects ranging from trilobites to Fremont Indian artifacts, www.greatbasinmuseum.com. The Topaz Museum tells the story of the Topaz WW II Japanese Internment Camp, www.topazmuseum.org.

Ely, Nevada: The Nevada Northern Railway is a "living museum" and national historic landmark that operates historic trains and offers theme rides throught the year, www.nnry.com. The Ely Renaissance Village is a collection of railroad-era houses depicting life in Ely in the early 1900s, while the Ely Art Bank displays and sells the work of local artists in a newly renovated historic bank building, www.elyrenaissance.com.

McGill, Nevada: The McGill Drugstore is a large time capsule with products still on the shelves that date back to the 1950s and where you can take a seat at a working soda fountain bar (built in 1930). The drugstore is open by appointment: call (775) 235-7082, mcgilldrugstoremuseum.org.

Snake Valley Businesses

The Border Inn

24-hour, year-round service. Motel (25 rooms w/ Direct TV), free WI-FI, restaurant (full menu + daily specials), bar, slots, pool table, video games, showers, gas, diesel, phones, laundry, ATM, propane bottles, souvenirs and DVDs. Convenience store and ice. 22 RV spots: full hookups, pull-through spaces and dump station. Computer available to print boarding passes, fishing licenses, etc. Located on the Utah-Nevada state line on Highway 6 & 50. 13 miles from the park. (775) 234-7300 & 234-7312.

D Bar X Lighting & Horns-A-Plenty Antler Art

Hand-crafted chandeliers, wall sconces, tables and more using natural renewable antlers, wooden wagon wheels, and old-fashioned oil lanterns. Thousands of happy customers worldwide since 1993. UL-Approved. All products guaranteed. The workshop, located 17 miles from Baker, is open by appointment. Complete catalog with more than 200 items available online at www.Horns-A-Plenty.com. Call for an appointment or a free color catalog. (800) 467-6599.

Lehman Caves Gift and Café

Located adjacent to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Famous for our homemade ice cream sandwiches, we also serve breakfast, lunch, snacks, hand dipped ice cream cones, malts, shakes, frozen treats, and home-baked desserts. The gift shop has Great Basin and Lehman Caves souvenirs, apparel, cards, mugs, books, plush animals, toys and games, pottery, wood and metal arts, jewelry, local and Great Basin crafts, camping and travel items, and bagged ice. Open Mid-April through Mid-October. cafegifts@outlook.com. (775) 234-7221.

The Getaway Cabin

Tired of motels? How about privacy in a clean, comfortable cabin located in the town of Baker? Satellite TV, wireless internet, fully equipped kitchen, towels and linens provided, fenced yard with picnic area and barbecue. Civilized pets OK. Two day minimum. (775) 234-7272.

Hidden Canyon Bed & Breakfast

Bed and Breakfast in luxury in our Lodge or new Roseberry building. Balcony-view (Lodge) and courtyard view (Roseberry) rooms, private bath, king or 2 queen beds, luxury bedding, small fridge, hearty continental breakfast included. Dinners available by reservation only. Enjoy a relaxing environment by running water, fly fishing (bring your own equipment), wonderful hiking, bird watching. It's the perfect place for a private getaway, group retreat or design-your-own fitness vacation. 14 miles from Baker, in the mountains at the eastern edge of the park with private access to Big Wash Trail. Reservations required. rcrouch7172@gmail.com, www.greatbasinpark.com, Hidden Canyon, P. O. Box 180, Baker, NV 89311 (775) 234-7172.

Baker RV & Fuel

Showers (\$2/person), gas & diesel, coin laundry, public toilets. (775) 234-7323.

Ferg's Firewood

Campfire wood—\$5.00 per large bundle. Self-serve, 24-hour availability. Two locations in Baker—follow the signs. Proceeds go to a local, hard-working student's college fund.

Rock Sage Room

Enjoy a private room in a natural setting while you visit the mountains and west deserts. View the Snake Range and night skies. Located 5 miles from Great Basin National Park. Queen bed, small fridge and microwave with linens provided. Reservations required with two day minimum. www.rocksageroom.com. (775) 234-7127.

Silver Jack Inn & Lectrolux Restaurant/Deli/Bakery/Groceries/Book Store/Gallery-Movie House 10 rooms with patio, free WI-FI for customers, garden dining, breakfast & dinner every day, lunches to go. Full bar: beer, wine and spirits. Groceries include meats, dairy and produce. Movie rentals, sports equipment rentals (bikes, snow shoes, XC skis). Art/Antiques Gallery on site, home made goodies, smoothies, shakes, floats, hand-dipped ice cream. Best wine list in rural America! Free primitive camping when campers patronize restaurant and/or grocery store. Also Tourist Bulletin Board and Lost & Found. Leave notices-we provide forms, lost items-we'll ship. April-October. (775) 234-7323.

T & D's Grocery Store, Restaurant, and Lounge

In business since 1989. Store open 7 days/week, carries supply of groceries (meats, produce, dairy, canned goods), beer, wine, liquor, soda, ice, ice cream bars, fishing tackle, and camping supplies. Restaurant serves lunch & dinner 7 days/week. Chef "T" has 35+ years of culinary experience. Well known for our pizza, but have a large variety of delicious Italian, Mexican, American and Vegetarian dishes at affordable prices. Dine in bright, cheery sunroom or on relaxing outdoor covered patio. Open year round (reduced hours in winter). Located in downtown Baker. (775) 234-7264.

Whispering Elms Motel, Campground & RV Park

Located under shady trees on the north end of Baker. Offering full service pull-through RV sites, 6 clean, non-smoking motel rooms (satellite TV, microwave, fridge, coffee), a large grassy area for tent camping, free WiFi, fire pits, coin laundry, showers, and a bar that boasts the best view of the mountains. Join locals and other travelers for a drink, a game of pool, darts, shuffleboard, horseshoes, and a conversation about the area and elsewhere. Monthly rentals available. Bar opens 4pm daily, Spring-Summer-Fall. (775) 234-9900.

Regional Directory

Chambers of Commerce

White Pine County, NV
(775) 289-8877

Delta, UT
(435) 864-4316

Beaver County, UT
(435) 438-5438

Recreation Information

Humboldt-Toiyabe Nat'l Forest
(775) 289-3031

Ely District BLM
(775) 289-1800

Fillmore District BLM
(435) 743-3100

Bryce Canyon National Park
(435) 834-5322

Cathedral Gorge State Park
(775) 728-4460

Cedar Breaks NM
(435) 586-9451

Death Valley National Park
(760) 786-3200

Fremont Indian State Park
(435) 527-4631

Lake Mead NRA
(702) 293-8990

Timpanogos Cave NM
(801) 756-5238

Ward Charcoal Ovens
& Cave Lake State Parks
(775) 289-1693

Zion National Park
(435) 772-3256

Road Conditions

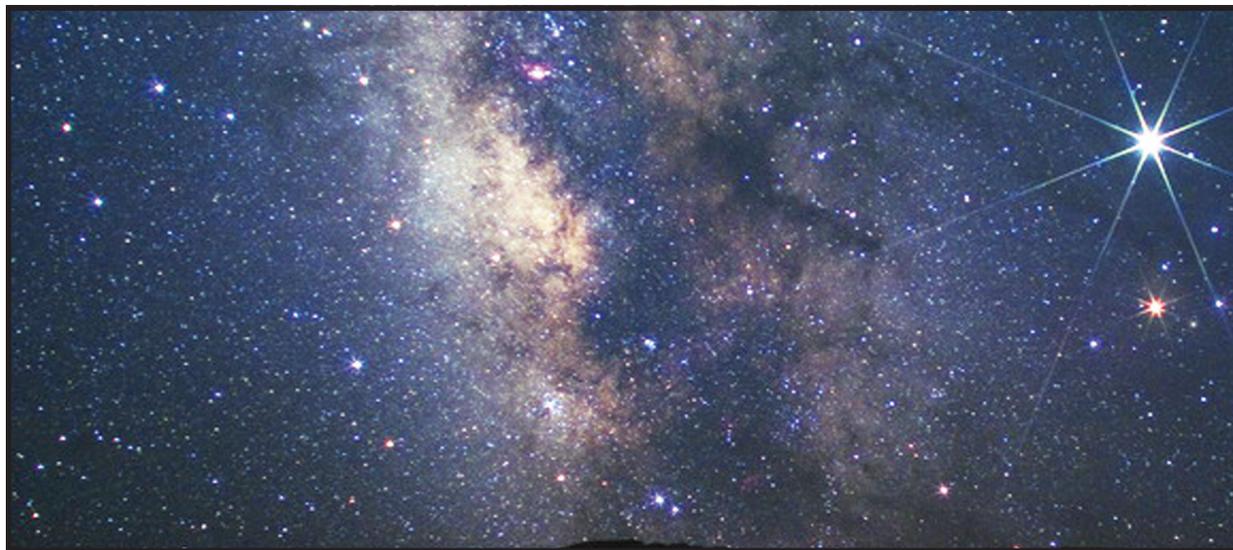
Nevada DOT
(877) NVROADS (687-6237)

Utah DOT
(866) 511-UTAH (8824)

California DOT
(800) 427-7623

While Great Basin National Park does not endorse the enterprises listed here, we do appreciate their generous support in producing this publication.

Great Basin Night Skies: Half the Park is After Dark!



On a clear, moonless night in Great Basin National Park, thousands of stars, five of our solar system's eight planets, star clusters, meteors, man-made satellites, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way can be seen with the naked eye. Photo by Wally Pacholka.

Two-thirds of Americans cannot see the Milky Way from their backyards, and nearly all of us (99%) live in places with measurable light pollution. Here at Great Basin National Park, our night skies are dark—among the darkest in the country, even among national parks! Join Great Basin's Dark Rangers for a celebration of this rare and valuable resource. Programs begin with a ranger talk at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center and are followed by ranger-led telescope viewing.

Weekly Astronomy Programs

Join Great Basin's Dark Rangers every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday night (Memorial Day to Labor Day) for astronomy programs. Explore our beautiful night sky with night sky themed talks and park provided telescopes. Programs start at dusk (check at a visitor center for exact times) at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Programs are also scheduled every Saturday night April-May and September-October.

Holiday and Special Astronomy Events

Memorial Day Weekend - May 23 & 24, 2015

Labor Day Weekend - September 5 & 6, 2015

Great Basin Astronomy Festival - Sept. 10-12, 2015

Star Train with the Nevada Northern Railway

May 22, June 19, July 17 and September 4, 2015 Great Basin National Park and the Nevada Northern Railway (NNRY) in Ely, NV are once again

excited to offer the NNRY's Star Train. Riders will begin their journey from the train station in Ely, NV and ride the historic train route. While onboard, Great Basin's Dark Rangers will speak on astronomical subjects, including trivia and prize giveaways, all culminating with a stop out of town. Here passengers will disembark the train and gaze through the park's high-powered telescopes. Tickets can be purchased online at www.nnry.com or at the NNRY station.

Great Basin Astronomy Festival

The fifth annual Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival will take place Thursday, September 10 through Saturday, September 12, 2015. Join park rangers to experience out of this world family fun and excitement, and learn about day and nighttime astronomy. There will be many telescopes of different makes, shapes, and

sizes for you and your family to look at the sun, stars, planets and other deep sky objects. Activities start at noon each day and continue until about 11p.m. each night. Check at a park visitor center or the park's website for the detailed schedule of events. www.bestnightsky.com

Full Moon Hikes

Join one of Great Basin's Dark Rangers for a nocturnal adventure. These popular guided hikes start shortly after sunset and traverse Great Basin National Park under a moonlit sky.

Full moon hikes are scheduled for June 2, July 1 and 31, and August 29, 2015. A limit of 40 people are permitted on these popular guided hikes and they are first come, first served (no reservations). Free tickets are available the day of the hike at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Although we keep the location of the full moon hike secret until you pick up your tickets, expect an easy to moderate two-mile hike above 10,000 feet. Rules are strictly enforced. Call for details.

Meteor Viewing Party

Join Great Basin Dark Rangers on Wednesday, August 12, 2014 to view the Perseid Meteor Shower. Bring a chair or blanket and wear warm clothes.

Come earlier in the day to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center to check out the presentation "Cosmic Collisions," showing at 4:00p.m.



The Great Basin National Park Foundation

The Foundation was incorporated in 1998 to raise funds and assist Great Basin National Park in achieving its mission. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization.

The Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and supported the park in numerous projects including exhibits at the Great Basin Visitor Center, recording local oral histories, park Bio-Blitz and improving park trails. Currently the Foundation is raising funds to support the construction and operation of a research-class astronomical observatory in the park. Through March 2015, the Great Basin Observatory received a very special donation from NV Energy for \$50,000 whose award helped complete the matching donation challenge from the Great Basin National Heritage Area. The Foundation's support, both financial and otherwise, makes it an invaluable park partner. To learn more about current projects and opportunities to donate, visit the Foundation on the web at www.greatbasinfoundation.org or the observatory project at www.greatbasinobservatory.org.